

AUSTRALIAN

# HOUSE & GARDEN

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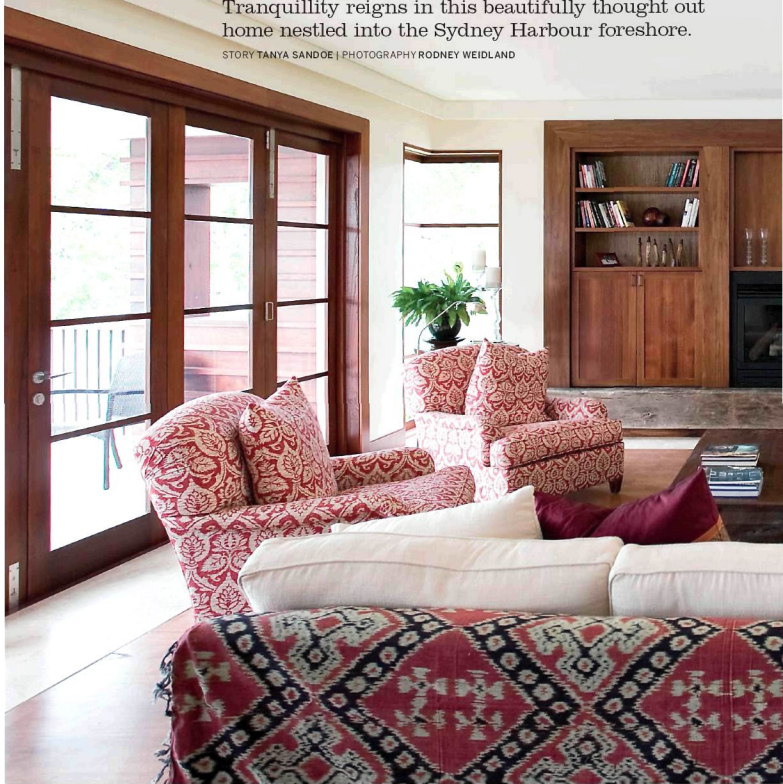
## easy updates

**100+ WAYS TO BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME**

# PEACE MAKER

Tranquillity reigns in this beautifully thought out home nestled into the Sydney Harbour foreshore.

STORY TANYA SANDOE | PHOTOGRAPHY RODNEY WEIDLAND



Beams from the boatshed that once stood on the property were incorporated into key design features, such as the TV cabinet/bookcase in the living room. Armchairs (upholstered in Damask Duet), sofas and coffee table, all Babette Hayes Design. Ikat wall hanging (on back of sofa) from Bali In Profile. For Where to Buy, see page 202.





The home is at once simple and opulent, a place for private meditation in a setting crafted according to centuries-old feng shui principles.

## Personal touch

"This is a lifetime of design ideas wrapped up in one home," says Catherine Beck, who has a background in architecture and commercial project management. A Feng Shui master, Gayle Atherton, was even called in to assess the energy flow in the home. "The bed had to be moved away from the south wall into the middle of the room, which resulted in the unusual bedhead treatment," says interior designer Babette Hayes.



In the mid-1980s, a young teenager was exploring the Sydney Harbour foreshore with a friend when he discovered an irresistible pocket of land and vowed to live there one day. Fast forward in time and the 'teenager', now a grown man, spots a block for sale while kayaking on the harbour. Within weeks, the property of his dreams was his.

The old house and boatshed are gone now. In their place is a home that is perfectly attuned to this man's need for a sanctuary. "The owner has such a hectic work life we wanted to create a home that was calming and warm," says design consultant Catherine Beck, who masterminded the project. Travels in Asia provided the inspiration for a thick mood book covering everything from architectural concepts to materials and furnishings. "I was the keeper of the brief," she says.

Mohit Keni and Phil Corben from Corben Architects designed a series of interlinked pavilions stepping down to the water, with terraced garden beds and a feeling of no-fuss simplicity. From the outside, balconies and shuttered windows sit atop a base of sandstone blocks, evoking the style and spirit of a Balinese resort.

Next, interior designer Babette Hayes was brought in to work with project architect, Karl Kowalczyk, to oversee such specifics as >



**ABOVE** A combination of timber, marble and travertine tiles creates a dramatic, yet elegant look in the kitchen. Pendants from Koda Lighting. **RIGHT** Interior designer Babette Hayes (left) with client representative and design consultant Catherine Beck. **OPPOSITE** Antique Manchurian doors in the entry set the scene for the Asian-inspired decor. Gong from Orient House. Pendant light from Ke-zu. **For Where to Buy, see page 202.**



< joinery, detailing and procurement for the interior, and to help implement organic changes to the design. "From all levels, there are sweeping views across the water and the bush beyond," says Babette. "We had to be ready to make windows bigger or re-orient furniture as the owner responded to the spaces." The result is a home that is at once simple and opulent, a place for private meditation in a setting crafted according to centuries-old feng shui principles.

From the street-level garage, a shuttered footbridge leads to the airy main bedroom suite, flanked by two balconies. A magnificent ensuite features a stone-composite bath surrounded by plantation shutters and unfettered by glazing – the ultimate in open-air bathing.

The kitchen and living areas are on the next level down, and include a day bed positioned under a retractable window, beside yet more balconies overlooking the harbour. "We worked hard to achieve the indoor-outdoor feel," says Catherine. Layering of textures was important too. Starting with a base of unfilled travertine floors (and blackbutt timber in the bedroom), silk curtains and purpose-built joinery contribute to an understated yet undeniably luxe interior.

Down another level are two more bedrooms and an office, each with separate access to the grounds. A flight of sandstone steps leads to the final pavilion – a separate pool house with entertainment unit, kitchen, spa, sauna and Japanese bath, and massage area. Built on the site of the original boathouse, it's an indulgent escape, all set to the soundtrack of the ocean lapping at the rocks below.

The project took about four years to complete, but its Zen-like qualities and unhindered access to the water and sky beyond were worthwhile every minute. "The end product is a successful, truly collaborative effort," says Babette. And proof that dreams can come true. >

CJB Consulting Services, Sydney, NSW; 0413 212 426 or [www.cjbconsulting.com.au](http://www.cjbconsulting.com.au). Corben Architects, Neutral Bay, NSW; (02) 9904 1844 or [www.corben.com.au](http://www.corben.com.au). Babette Hayes Design, Mosman, NSW; 0419 694 914 or [www.babettehayes.com.au](http://www.babettehayes.com.au).

ABOVE A shuttered walkway leads from the entrance of the house to the main bedroom suite. RIGHT The bathroom is one of the owner's favourite spaces to relax. Mirror by Babette Hayes Design. Basins and tapware from Cass Brothers. Bath by Palazzo Baths. For Where to Buy, see page 202.





**'Luxury is being in an environment  
that supports peace of mind and  
clarity of thought.'** CATHERINE BECK



## Personal touch

### TREASURE HUNT

Displaying collectibles gathered on your travels is a simple way to bring a look you love home.

**WATER WISE** The lush tropical garden is entirely irrigated by rainwater tanks, which sit under the house.



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes will allow.

### Colour palette

Dulux White Opal  
(interiors, throughout)

Sikkens Cetol HLS Walnut  
(timber stain)

### Surfaces

Abodia honed  
travertine (floors)

Emperador Dark  
honed marble (ensuite  
vanities)

**ABOVE** The pool house has its own living room. Lamp from Davidmetnicole. Sofas by Babette Hayes Design. Balinese cushions from Bali In Profile. **LEFT** Balconies on each level make the most of the home's spectacular location. **OPPOSITE TOP** The restful main bedroom suite. Bed by David Herring Furniture Design. Armchairs from Sentosa. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** A Japanese bath is an unusual touch in the entertaining pavilion. Basins from Candana. Wall tiles and benchtop by Onsite. Mirror by Babette Hayes Design. For Where to Buy, see page 202.

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